
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO STUDY THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE FAILURE OF MOLOKAI HOMESTEADERS TO RECEIVE THE LEGISLATIVELY ALLOCATED TWO-THIRDS OF THE WATER IN THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND WORK WITH THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS OF THE SYSTEM FOR ALL USERS.

1 WHEREAS, section 168-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides
2 in part that "...lessees of the Hawaiian homes commission shall
3 at all times, upon actual need therefor being shown to the board
4 of agriculture, have a prior right to two-thirds of the water
5 developed for the Molokai irrigation and water utilization
6 project by the tunnel development extending to Waikolu valley
7 and ground water developed west of Waikolu valley..."; and

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9 WHEREAS, the lessees of the Hawaiian Homes Commission on
10 Molokai are not receiving the benefit of the two-thirds
11 allocation set forth by statute; and

12
13 WHEREAS, if the lessees received the allocation that they
14 are entitled to, the agricultural activities and resultant
15 economic benefits to the lessees could be immeasurable; and

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17 WHEREAS, since it was once envisioned that there was
18 sufficient arable land on Molokai to produce enough fresh
19 produce to supply the entire State, this increased agricultural
20 activity on the Molokai Hawaiian Home Lands could make this
21 vision a reality; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2006, that the Hawaiian Homes Commission is requested to
26 study the possible benefits of increased agricultural activity
27 on its Molokai lands if the lessees of those lands were
28 receiving the two-thirds allotment of water from the Molokai
29 irrigation system to which they are legally entitled; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Homes Commission
2 is requested to consult and work with the Board of Agriculture
3 to ensure that:

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- 5 (1) The lessees of the Hawaiian Homes Commission on
- 6 Molokai receive their full allotment of water from the
- 7 Molokai irrigation system;
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- 9 (2) The operation and management of the Molokai irrigation
- 10 system is done in a way that it maximizes the benefits
- 11 of the system for all its users; and
- 12
- 13 (3) All revenues derived from water charges, including
- 14 water tolls and acreage assessments, all filing fees,
- 15 and fees for new service connections for the Molokai
- 16 irrigation system be segregated from other revenues in
- 17 the irrigation system revolving fund and used solely
- 18 for the repair, maintenance, upkeep, improvement, and
- 19 operation and management of the Molokai irrigation
- 20 system; and
- 21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Homes Commission
23 is requested to submit a report of its findings and the results
24 of its consultation with the Board of Agriculture, together with
25 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature not later than
26 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
27 2007; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian
31 Homes Commission and the Chairperson of the Board of
32 Agriculture.

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35 OFFERED BY: Mele Canale

Michael P. Kahikina
Cindy Evans
Michael P. Kahikina
Michael P. Kahikina

Mele Canale
John P. Hanamoto
John P. Hanamoto
John P. Hanamoto
John P. Hanamoto
Sylvia B. Berg
Sylvia B. Berg

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